

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nancy R. Simon on 11/24/2008.

Amendment to claims

Claims 15 and 19 – 21 are cancelled.

Claim 14 is amended as follows:

Claim **14** (Currently Amended) an image sensor, comprising:

A plurality of photosensitive sites arranged into an active area and a non-active area, wherein the photosensitive sites in the active area are used to capture an image;
and

~~An opaque~~ **a metal** plate covering at least a portion of the photosensitive sites in the non-active area, wherein the ~~opaque~~ **metal** plate includes one or more openings positioned at predetermined locations over respective photosensitive sites in the non-active area to form a unique pattern that is associated with the image sensor.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record Denis (US 2002/0114526) failed to teach:

An image sensor, comprising: A metal plate covering at least a portion of the photosensitive sites in the non-active area, wherein the metal plate includes one or more openings positioned at predetermined locations over respective photosensitive sites in the non-active area to form a unique pattern that is associated with the image sensor.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SELAM T. GEBRIEL whose telephone number is (571)270-1652. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7.30am-5.00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tran Sinh can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tuan V Ho/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622

/S. T. G. /

Examiner, Art Unit 2622

Tuesday, November 25, 2008